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Local Boards

Access of depressed classes to wells and tanks under local bodies.

*1763 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House the information received by the Government in regard to wells or tanks under local bodies to which access is denied to the depressed classes?

A.—A statement [a] is laid on the table.

Mr. A B. Shetty:—"May I know whether Government propose to take any steps to make the wells and tanks dug and maintained out of public funds accessible to depressed class people and to others also without distinction of caste or creed?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"When such cases come to the notice of Government, steps will be taken."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"With reference to the schedule given on page 9 in regard to Coimbatore, may I know whether he has received any intimation as to why access has been denied to 47 out of 64 wells?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"Owing to the prejudice of the caste people in the locality."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"Has Government taken any steps to see that caste prejudice is reduced?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"The Government are trying to do everything they can, but my hon. Friends and those who think like them obstruct."

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I know if the presidents of the majority of district boards are non-Brahmans?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister knows that I am not a Member of the Coimbatore Municipality at present, and that all excepting two are non-Brahmans there?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"It is not a question of the municipality alone, but it is also a question of the population of the locality."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"I find from the appendix published that there are a number of local boards and municipal councils in whose areas there are no wells to which admission is denied; I should like to know whether in furnishing the information the Government have taken into account only wells constructed out of funds of the local bodies or also wells already existing?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"Wells constructed out of public funds only are taken into consideration."

Mr. K. R. Karant:—"May I know whether under the existing law it is open to local bodies to ear-mark wells for some particular communities and whether that question has been considered by Government?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"As a matter of fact, a circular was issued to the effect that all wells dug out of public funds should be open to all classes of people?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 304—307 infra.

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Mr. K. R. Karant :—" May I ask what steps Government have taken to see that the circular is being observed by the local bodies and, if they are acting contrary to that, why they are allowed to do so ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" As there is not an effective sanction."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know if the hon. Minister has considered the question of declining grants to those localities which deny access to these wells, just as he has done in the case of admission of depressed class pupils to schools ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" If they persist in their attempts steps will be taken."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" The question relates to wells and tanks in local boards and the hon. Minister's statement is confined to wells on which local bodies' money has been spent. May I take it that wells which are used by the public and on which no money has been spent by the local bodies so far have not been taken into account ? If so, whether those wells cease to be under local bodies ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" No, Sir. The question we are asked was with regard to wells constructed out of public funds, or by local bodies out of their own funds."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know if there are wells in the local bodies, on which, even though they are dug out of private funds, public funds are spent for their maintenance ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" All these wells will of course come under the category I have described."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Sir, in the appendix it is given that in 11-15 a.m.
Markapur Taluk Board, Kurnool district, 'separate wells have been constructed for the depressed classes, so they are not allowed to take water from the wells provided for caste people.' Am I to understand that this applies to other areas also ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" That does not follow."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" May I know what steps Government have taken to remove the prejudices of the caste people ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" It is very difficult to remove caste prejudice in this country."

Mr. R. Foulkes :—" By what means can local bodies compel persons of the higher castes to admit the depressed classes to the use of wells constructed out of public funds ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" If the wells are constructed by the local bodies the presidents can throw them open to the public."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Sir, in the Mangalore Municipality one well has been declared to be caste well ; may I know why is this ? " (Laughter.)

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The hon. Member is a member of the municipal council of Mangalore and he should have seen that that resolution was not passed." (Laughter.)

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Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" Sir, there are some wells the genesis of which nobody knows but they are now being maintained by the public or the local bodies. May I know in what class are these wells included ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" They are classed under public wells."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Do not Government consider that under the present circumstances it will be beneficial to issue instructions to local officers to do propaganda work in this behalf, to make the people realize their responsibility and duty towards the depressed classes ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The valuable suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered by Government when the time comes."

Medical

Number of honorary physicians and surgeons in the City.

* 1764 *Q.*—Dr. B. S. Mallayya : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of honorary physicians and surgeons working in the Government hospitals in the City of Madras ;

(*b*) how this system has worked so far ;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to extend that system ; and

(*d*) if so, when the Government propose to do so ?

A.—(*a*) Three physicians and four surgeons.

(*b*) A summary [a] of the latest reports received from the Superintendents of the hospitals is laid on the table.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have decided to extend the system to the district headquarter hospitals and details of this are being worked out.

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know what amount of work is being done by these seven honorary independent medical officers ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" It is not possible to calculate their services in terms of rupees, annas and pies."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that these seven medical officers have done the same amount of work that is done by the seven I.M.S. officers and would have cost Government only a lakh and twenty-five thousand rupees a year ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The hon. Member seems to be in possession of more information than Government are."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" Why is this system not extended in this city ; and some of these I. M.S. officers replaced by these men in the city ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The system is existing in the City and further extension will be considered. It is to be extended to the mufassal also."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" I should like to know if the system is working well, why Government have not increased the number of honorary medical officers to replace the paid officers as far as possible ? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 308-309 infra.